

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. # 82B-34 Building Date: early 19th century

Building Name: Trueman Cabin

Location: Patuxent River Park, Croom, Maryland

Public/ Museum/Unoccupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description

The Trueman Cabin is a one-story, one-room side-gabled log slave cabin which was dismantled and reconstructed at a new location in the Patuxent River Park. It is roughly 16 by 14 feet, and is constructed of squared chestnut logs, all hand hewn. They are joined at the corners by full-dovetail notching with no overhang. Entrance is through a five-foot high batten door, roughly centered in the south facade. It has plain board jambs and soffit. The building is chinked with a modern white cement mixture. An exterior stone chimney has been newly constructed at the west gable end. Interior consists of one large room; a second-story gallery with plain board railing has been newly constructed in the east section, and is accessible by a ladder in the northeast corner of the room. The interior is warmed by a large stone fireplace in the west gable end wall. Relocated at the Patuxent River Park, the cabin now stands in a wooded area with several other relocated historic structures, part of an interpretive park program.

Significance

The Trueman Cabin originally stood on the plantation of Henry B. B. Trueman, north of Woodville (Aquasco); it may have been standing on the property when Trueman purchased it in the early 1850's. The farm property has remained in the possession of Trueman's descendants to the present day. In the 1970's, when museum exhibits were being collected for the Patuxent River Park, the Truemans donated the log cabin; it was dismantled, moved and reassembled at the Jug Bay Park. A new exterior stone chimney was built at the west gable end, serving a newly-built fireplace of the same undressed stone, and a new second-story gallery was also constructed. The Trueman Cabin is one of very few surviving slave cabins in Maryland. It is distinguished by its heavy log construction and full dovetail notching. It now stands in a wooded area near the Patuxent River, part of an interpretive park program; it is a rare surviving example of its architectural type.

Acreage: 21.55 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G.# 82B-34

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Trueman Cabin

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Patuxent River Park (Park Entrance Road) not for publicationcity, town Croom Airport Road vicinity of Croom congressional districtstate Upper Marlboro county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name M-NCPPCstreet & number 660 Kenilworth Avenue telephone no.:city, town Riverdale state and zip code Maryland 20737

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2719street & number 14735 Main Street folio 59city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Nonedate federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#82B-34

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☒ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Trueman Cabin is a one-story, one-room side-gabled log slave cabin which was dismantled and reconstructed at a new location in the Patuxent River Park. It is distinguished by its heavy log construction and full-dovetail notching, a rare survivor of this architectural type.

The building is roughly 16 by 14 feet, and is constructed of squared chestnut logs. All logs used in the construction of the walls appear to be hand hewn. They are joined at the corners by full-dovetail notching with no overhang. Entrance is through a five-foot high batten door, roughly centered in the south facade. It has plain board jams and soffit. The building is chinked with a modern white cement mixture. In the second course of chinking above the door (on both south and north facades) can be seen the ends of the cross beams which support the partial second story. There are small wedges of wood randomly inserted in chinking.

The east gable end is lighted by one small window. The north facade has a central doorway similar to that of the south facade; there is also a small window to the west of this north entrance. The two windows of the cabin are unglazed, and, like the doors, are finished on the interior with plain board surrounds.

The cabin has a new wood shingle roof. There is a (new) exterior stone chimney centered at the west gable end. The upper sections of the east and west gable ends (above the eaves) are sided with plain horizontal board. The building originally had a board floor supported by stone piers.

Interior of the cabin consists of one large room. A second story gallery with plain board railing has been newly constructed in the area east of the two doors; it is accessible by a ladder in the northeast corner of the room. Cuts in the logs at second floor level indicate that there were originally more crossbeams than there are now, probably supporting a full second-story sleeping space.

The interior is warmed by a large fireplace in the west gable end wall. The fireplace is built of large undressed stone, and has a massive log lintel. The floor is of packed earth.

This cabin was originally located on the Trueman family plantation in Aquasco. It was dismantled and removed from its stone pier supports. It was rebuilt in the Patuxent River Park, and a new roof structure and stone chimney were added. It now stands in a wooded area with several other relocated historic structures, part of an interpretative park program.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#82E-34

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates early 19th century Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Trueman Cabin originally stood on the plantation of Henry B.B. Trueman on the old Aquasco Road near its intersection with the road to Nottingham. It may already have been standing on the property before Trueman purchased the farmland, parts of Thomas and Anthony's Choice and Poplar Hills, in the early 1850's.¹ The farm property has remained in the possession of Trueman's descendants to the present day.

In the 1970's, when museum exhibits were being collected for the Patuxent River Park, Robert Trueman donated the log cabin which stood on his farm to be dismantled, moved and reassembled at the Jug Bay Park. When the cabin was rebuilt, a new exterior stone chimney was built at the west gable end, serving a newly-built fireplace of the same undressed stone. A second-story gallery was constructed in the east part of the building, replacing the original second-story loft.

The Trueman Cabin is one of very few surviving slave cabins in Maryland. It is distinguished by its heavy log construction and full dovetail notching. Other surviving slave cabins from the period of the 1840's, (cf. those at Brookfield of the Berrys and Melford) are of frame rather than log construction.² One other log quarter, which stood on the grounds of Bleak Hill, was comparable to the Trueman Cabin; the Bleak Hill quarter was, however, demolished for health reasons in the late 1970's.³ The Trueman Cabin, in excellent condition, stands in a wooded area near the Patuxent River, part of an interpretive park program; it is a rare surviving example of its architectural type.

Notes

¹ See Maryland Historical Trust form P.G. #87A-22

² See National Register nominations for Brookfield of the Berrys (P.G. #86A-20) and Melford (P.G. #71B-16).

³ See Maryland Historical Trust forms P.G. #79-6 and #79-63.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#82B-34

See Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 21.55a
Quadrangle name Bristol

Tax map 120, parcel 11

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian		
organization	Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission	date	June 1989
street & number	c/o Area Plans (E/S) M-NCPPC, CAB	telephone	952-3521
city or town	Upper Marlboro	state	Maryland 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

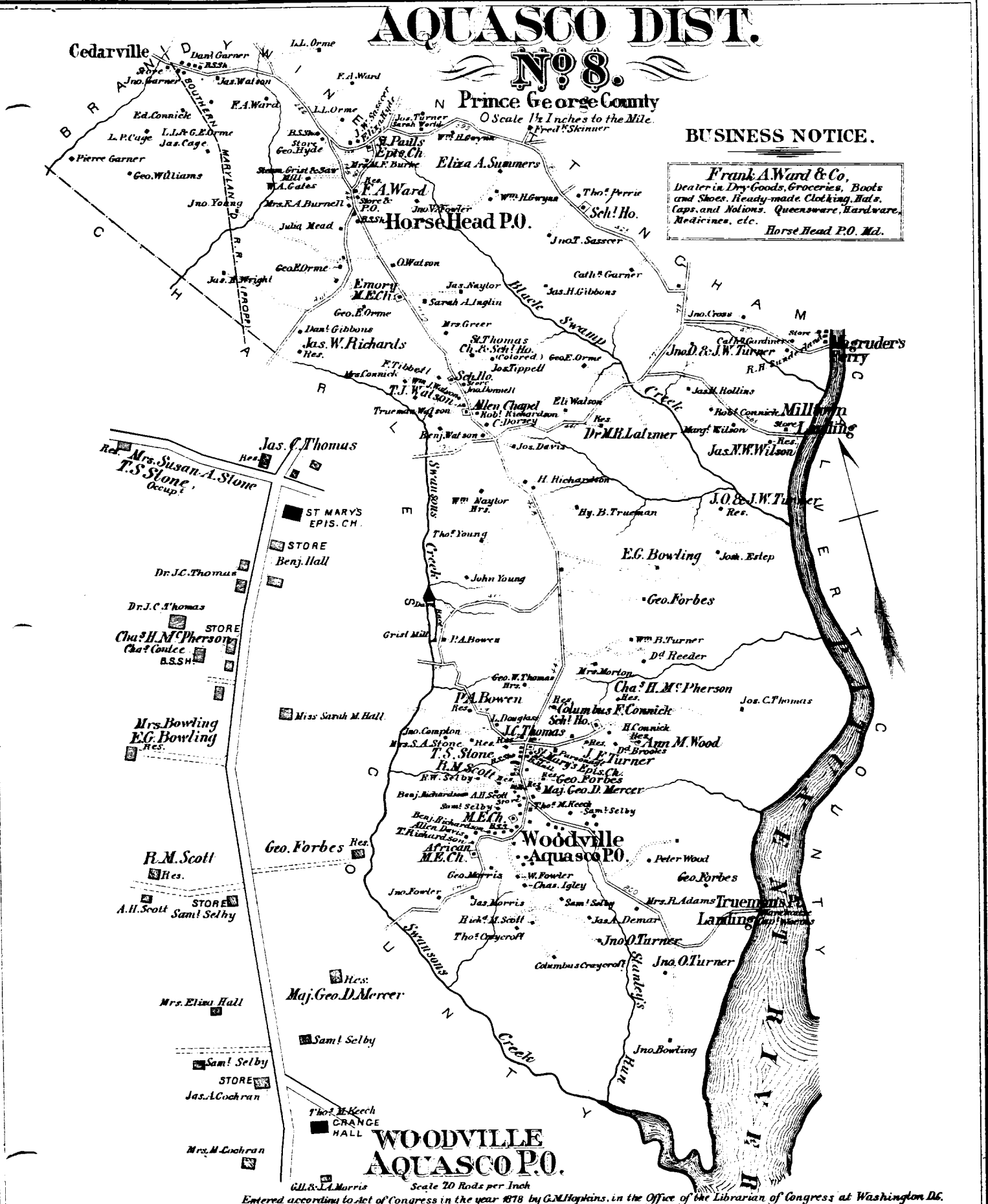
AQUASCO DIST.

Nº 8.

Prince George County

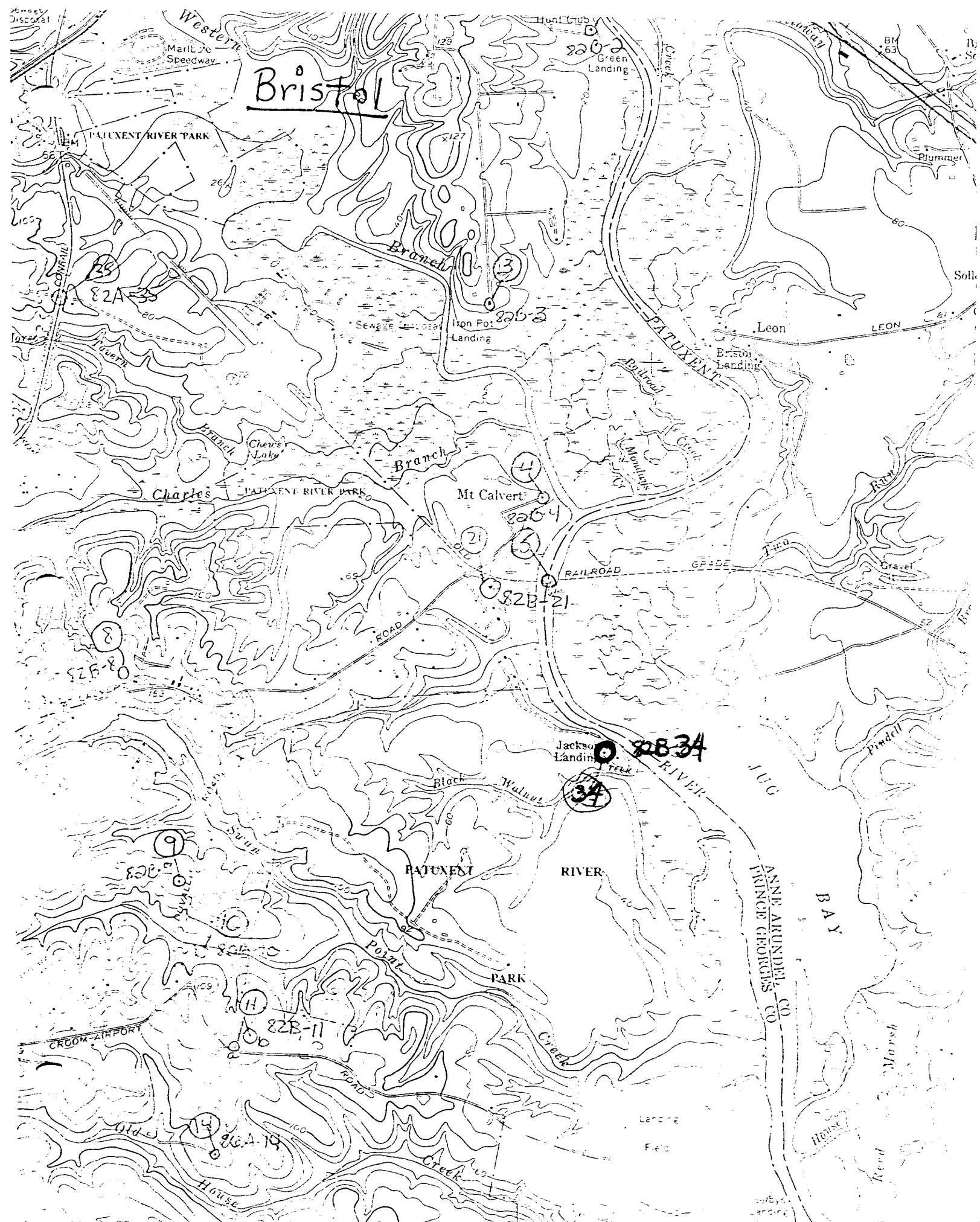
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Horse Head P.O. Md.



**WOODVILLE
AQUASCO P.O.**

Scale 20 Rods per Inch
Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by G.M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington D.C.





P.G. #82B-34

Trueman Slave Cabin
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
North elevation
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #82B-34

Trueman Slave Cabin
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Detail, southeast corner
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #82B-34

Trueman Slave Cabin
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Interior detail
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #82B-34

Trueman Slave Cabin
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Fireplace

Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #82B-34

Trueman Slave Cabin
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
West elevation
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD